

# **Firrhill Community Council**

**'Nec Aspera Terrent'**  
(Undaunted by Adversity)

## **Note of Meeting of the Council on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018 held in Lochan View Community Business Centre, Firrhill Neuk.**

**Attendance:** H Levy (Chair); L McGurk (Sec); L Linn; S Weir; F Gosney; J Turnbull; S Duffy.

**Visitors:** Cllrs Arthur & Cllr Doggart, CEC Council; Police Oliver Ford, Oxfangs Police; D Rodriguez, Stephanie Lawson, Karen Stewart.

**Apologies:** J Napier; Cllrs Rust, CEC Council.

The meeting started at 6 pm, with H Levy in the Chair.

### **Minute of Previous Meetings:**

The draft minutes for our meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and were reviewed. The minutes were moved for approval by F.G, seconded by L.L.

## **1. Reports from Police, Councillors, etc.**

### **1.1 Police Report (for previous month)**

The following Police Report covering crimes in Firrhill area during August 2018, received from PC Ford and forwarded to members.

Good News: We are looking to support more litter clean – ups in the area with the help from Edinburgh Council South – West

#### **Housebreakings:**

On 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018, a male was discovered in the grounds of an address in Firrhill Crescent with the perceived intention of committing theft (Section 57).

On 7<sup>th</sup> August, a house was broken into on Colinton Mains Road and a car was stolen. A 16 year old male was arrested and property was recovered nearby.

#### **Assault:**

There were no reported minor assaults in the Oxfangs area in August 2018.

#### **Road Safety/Initiatives:**

There are no specific ongoing initiatives per se but parking issues still dominate complaints near to the 3-school triangle (Firrhill HS, Braidburn Primary and Oxfangs Primary).

#### **Theft:**

There was a robbery reported at an address in Firrhill Park on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2018, a male was arrested and charged with this offence.

## **Hate Crime:**

There were no reported hate crimes during June/July 2018.

## **Incidents of Note:**

Vandalism and fire-raising again evident in August 2018.

Bags of rubbish were set alight at an address on Firrhill Drive on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

On 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018, a car window was smashed on Oxgangs Medway.

On 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018 a house window was smashed on Oxgangs Road North.

On 12<sup>th</sup> August 2018 a vehicle was damaged on Oxgangs Bank.

On 12<sup>th</sup> August a house window was smashed on Firrhill Park.

On 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018 a house window was smashed on Oxgangs Drive.

On 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018, a bottle was thrown at a bus window, smashing it, on Colinton Mains Drive.

## **Community Police Team**

Ward 8 comprises of 3 Policing Beats with 2 City of Edinburgh Council Funded Officers - Police Constables Eric Jones and David Crow as well as Firrhill Schools PC, Paul Robinson. Beat PF57 covers the Firrhill CC area.

The Community Policing Team Inspector covering Wards is Police Inspector Scott Richardson. The CPT Sergeant covering Ward 8 is Police Sergeant Kieran Dougal.

The CPT consists of 3 teams of community-facing Constables, with the emphasis on community working, in a bid to solve local issues.

In non-emergencies, should you wish to contact us, please do not hesitate to do so.

You can contact us by email at <mailto:EdinburghColintonFairmileheadCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk> or by telephoning the national non-emergency number 101. You can also follow us on Twitter @EdinPolSW.

## **Police Surgery;**

Oxgangs Library, Oxgangs Road North, Wednesdays 1700 - 1800 hours.

Morrison's Café, Hunters Tryst, every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday 1130 - 1230 hours.

***Warning about doorstep callers: don't sign up with, or give money to, anyone who coldcalls, i.e., anyone you haven't arranged to call. Say NO and report them to Police Scotland Tel: 101 or the City Council's Trading Standards Tel: 0131-529 3030.***

***To pass on information about crime anonymously, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or fill out their secure, encrypted online Giving Information Form.***

## **1.2 Councillor Scott Arthur Report:**

Attached as Appendix 1

### **1.3 Councillor Jason Rust:**

Cllr Rust presented his apologies as he is on holiday but he continues to support many Families with ongoing issues at Oxgangs Primary School & Housing issues. He has also followed up a resident's concerns in Firrhill Crescent and this has been resolved.

### **1.4 Councillor Phil Doggart:**

- Attended Art in the Park
- Lunch with the Lord Provost
- Seconded a motion to localities Committee to increase Police presence in the area
- Raised at Localities Committee that there's a lack of active travel spend. £0 spent in SW area and improve cycling to work.
- Chased up bus stop on Oxgangs Road North (has been installed)
- Attended Quiz Night at Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre

## **2. Ongoing Issues from Previous Meetings**

### **2.1 NP Review**

The Chair has collated all responses & comments and submitted them to the SW office. The consultation responses were circulated to all who submitted comments as well as Firrhill CC members. There is now a report available (Appendix 2) which will be considered at the Council's Policy and Strategy Committee on Tuesday 02/10/18, then discussed at the Full Council meeting on 25/10/18

### **2.2 Oxgangs Primary School**

The Chair & Secretary have been invited to the Oxgangs Parent Council on Wednesday 05/10/18. The Chair will feedback to the CC at the next meeting any actions/requests/solutions that are raised. PC Ford was concerned that the Police have no record/knowledge from the school of any of the incidents that were mentioned at either this meeting or previous meetings, there then followed a discussion on the various ways in which Parents/Carers could contact the Police, see above Police report. This led into an update of the CEC review of the 'Respect Me' policy that has been taking place over the summer months. The Chair has been in touch with Lorna Sweeny who will forward on the Review report & any actions that we could assist with.

## **3. Office Bearers Reports**

### **3.1 Environmental Walk About**

Walk About took place on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018 comments & recommendations (Appendix 3). S.L- Raised concerns about antisocial behaviour in Firrhill City Woods. Enquired whether we could organise a community clear up. Concerns raised about 2 dead foxes found close together with no obvious signs of harm. There then followed a discussion re ownership of the land & new services,

Barnardo's, that are now in place near the woods & possible ways to fund any further action. The environment group will take this forward.

K.S raised the many concerns that have arisen as part of the ongoing 'Wall Insulation' work taking part in Firrhill Crescent & Loan as well as the Road works that are taking place in Firrhill Drive. The

Councillors said they would take these forwards to the appropriate Officers but it was noted that the 'Wall Insulation' work is coming to an end.

#### **4. AOCB**

F.G. raised concerns re the **Colinton Mains Bowling Club** Alarm which is repeatedly going off. She also asked who would be maintaining the Hedge & grounds now that the Club was closed. S.A said he would investigate

D.R shared an event "Find your Voice". The "**Find Your Voice**" project launches at the Music Box in Edinburgh College (Sighthill Campus, Bankhead Avenue, Edinburgh, EH11 4DE) on Saturday 13th Oct 2018.

#### **Date, Time and Venue of Next Public Meeting**

Date, venue and time of our next meeting is Monday **22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018** in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at **6.00pm**.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm approx.

## Cllr Scott Arthur's Report

**Pentland Primary Road Safety** - I have passed parent feedback on to the road safety team about Pentland Drive. It's a long shot, but some form of crossing is being considered at the "SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR" markings. I have requested that parking enforcement pay a visit to Oxgangs Bank.

**Local Parks** - In recent months I played a small part in getting Fairmilehead Park its Green Flag Award, I helped Oxgangs Trinity FC be allocated Colinton Mains Park as their "home ground" and most recently I've been working with **Pentland Community Centre** to find the £100k needed to upgrade the neighbouring playpark.

**Planning** - The proposal to build housing on the Hunters Tryst site has been approved. The sale of Comiston Farmhouse should be concluded in October.

**Colinton Mains Bowling Club** – The last game has now been played at the club. I have already had a meeting with Council Officers to discuss the future of the site. I have been clear that the site should be dealt with promptly and if it is to be converted to housing, the local community would probably prefer Council Homes. Whatever happens, the local community will be consulted.

**Oxgangs Rd North Road Safety** - I get regular "feedback" about vehicle movements and parking on Oxgangs Road North. It is important that this is addressed due to there being entrances to four schools over a 340m stretch of road. The Council have responded to these concerns in the first instance by reviewing the movement of vehicles they control along the road. More information here: <https://drscottarthur.scot/2018/09/20/update-road-safety-on-oxgangs-rd-north/>

**Oxgangs Rd North Road Bus Stop** - With the weather turning cooler a few people have been in touch about the bus stop on Oxgangs Rd North which was removed after a bus whacked it back in July. The Council is waiting on a new one being made and delivered - I've been told that things should be back to normal by the middle of October, but I have asked for it to be prioritised.

**Oxgangs Forum** - It often feels like Oxgangs gets overlooked when compared to other parts of the city, so it is great to see that progress is being made which will mean it will soon catch up – the Oxgangs Forum should make this happen. The inaugural meeting of the Oxgangs Forum meeting I attended brought together people from the Council, NHS, faith groups, Police Scotland & local charities to see how partnership working could deliver more for the area.

**Redford Barracks Working Group** – No news, but a meeting is scheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup> October.

**Promoted on my Facebook** – Road Safety on Oxgangs Rd N & the recent jobs fair at Pentland CC.

**Raised in Council** – The Living Landscape areas on Oxgangs Rd N, fly-tipping and preparations for bonfire night.

**More local news on my Facebook page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/DrScott4Ward8/>

**Prof Scott Arthur – [Scott.Arthur@Edinburgh.Gov.UK](mailto:Scott.Arthur@Edinburgh.Gov.UK)**

## Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan

The Edinburgh Partnership (EP) community plan sets out the strategic direction for community planning in Edinburgh and describes the shared priorities of the EP and the actions it will take towards achieving those priorities.

It describes how progress and success will be measured. This includes the need for SMART target setting for the output measures as part of the development of actions.

The EP agreed that the new community plan should focus on tackling poverty and inequality, recognising that this is the single most critical challenge faced by community planning partners in the city. The drivers of, and solutions to, issues of poverty and inequality are entrenched and complex and require significant effort to resolve. To address this, the Partnership agreed to identify a limited number of thorny issues that could only be tackled collaboratively by partners.

It was recognised that the community plan does not stand alone but is part of a wider multi-agency and partner policy and strategy framework designed to deliver improved outcomes for Edinburgh's citizens and communities. The plan is designed to complement and align with these existing strategies and plans, not duplicate or reiterate what is already happening. In doing this, the longer-term aspirations for the city are also recognised, with the plan contributing to the 2050 Edinburgh City Vision.

The EP has been clear about its ambition to change the way of working, to listen and deliver, and through leadership, collaboration and joint resourcing, make a difference to the intractable issues in the city. The plan identifies three priority workstreams, which over the period of the plan will deliver actions to ensure that citizens across all parts of Edinburgh have:

- enough money to live on: Family income is often used as a key indicator of resources available and, by extension, of the ability to maintain an acceptable standard of living. Within this context, this workstream includes actions to maximise the income available to lower income households, and to ensure that residents have enough money to live on
- access to work, learning and training opportunities: Worklessness remains the single most important predictor of poverty - 74% of households in which no adult is in work live on incomes below the poverty threshold. However, work alone is not necessarily sufficient to prevent poverty. This workstream aims to provide additional targeted services to help residents access the work, learning, and training opportunities they need to maintain a good quality of life.
- a good place to live: The places people live, work, and play, and the connections with others those places help form, all have a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of citizens, and the way they experience the effects of poverty. This workstream aims to articulate the additional actions the Edinburgh Partnership needs to take to ensure people in the city can access a good, affordable, and well designed, place to live.

The plan sets out an initial programme of work under each of these priorities. This programme will further develop over time in response to the needs of communities, and the recommendations and actions proposed by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission during 2019.

Further information can be obtained on the city Councils website:

[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/424/the\\_edinburgh\\_partnership\\_community\\_plan](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/424/the_edinburgh_partnership_community_plan)

## Firrhill Community Council Walkabout

12 September 2018

**Firrhill CC members** - Jim, Laura, Lesley and Susan

**Edinburgh Council officers** – Carol Duncan and Ashana

**Route followed** – from Oxgangs Library crossing to the opposite side of Oxgangs Road North, then down the hill past the police station, left along Oxgangs Terrace, round the upper part of Colinton Mains Road (from where the footpath intersects the houses leading into Redford Woods), along Colinton Mains Grove, and down the section of Colinton Mains Crescent heading back towards Colinton Mains Drive.

- The first thing we noted was that there is no seating outside the library. Instead we sat on the car park wall. Carol Duncan mentioned some single seats which had been provided at the Kirkgate in Leith and said she would send a photo.
- When we crossed over to the opposite side of Oxgangs Road North, we discussed the pedestrian crossing at Aldi and the traffic problems encountered in this area during peak times. While we were talking, an elderly man waited at the push-button pedestrian crossing. As he crossed the road, he only got half way over before the amber lights started flashing. We felt that the time allowed to cross should probably be extended to a more realistic time. We also discussed whether a box junction might improve the traffic issues in this area.
- As we walked down the hill, we discussed the amount of snow and ice that lies in the area in winter. In view of how steep the hill is, we felt that there should probably be extra and/or larger grit boxes on the pavements.
- We noted that the bus shelter at the dentist on Oxgangs Road North was still missing after being knocked over by a bus nearly 12 weeks ago. Hopefully this will be replaced soon. We discussed that once the new shelter is in place, it might be an idea to re-locate the litter bin/ cigarette stubber to a more noticeable spot as the current one doesn't seem to be as well used as it should be (a lot of cigarette ends were lying on the ground).
- Going past the post box, police station, and the push-button pedestrian crossing closest to the Chip Inn, we noted a large amount of pine needles that have dropped from the Scots Pine trees overhanging the pavement. The needles make the pavement very slippery underfoot and wash down the gutter at the side of the road on days with heavy rain blocking the drains on Oxgangs Road North and the drains at the junction just inside Oxgangs Terrace. The pine needles don't look as though they have been swept up for some time. There is also a large amount of the needles that have gathered on the D island at the push-button crossing as well.
- We also noted that the low wall where two Scots Pine trees are situated next to the pushbutton crossing has two large cracks (one of the cracks next to the grit bin). It may be that the roots of the trees are pushing against the wall here.
- Turning into Oxgangs Terrace, we noted the recent successful pavement repair which had been carried out to fix a section of pavement which had been crumbling and become potentially dangerous (we noted our thanks to Kevin Cook for arranging this repair).
- We noted the poor state of repair of many sections of the road in the Colinton Mains area, and also that some garden hedges had grown outwards taking up half the pavement space in some sections.
- At the footpath leading from Colinton Mains Road into Redford Woods, we noted there was no bin for dog walkers to "bag and bin it". We discussed that ideally a bin would be provided at the



far end of the footpath closest to the woods, but advice received is that this would cause a problem to empty the bin.

### **Action**

- 1) Carol and Ashana took notes and agreed that they would raise the issues from our walkabout with their colleagues in the appropriate Departments. Carol also agreed to find out if there were any plans to include Oxgangs and Colinton Mains in the Council's road repair/refurbishment programme.
- 2) Laura, Jim and Lesley to email any photos and adjustments to Susan to include in the draft notes.
- 3) Draft notes to be forwarded to Chair of Firrhill CC.
- 4) Firrhill CC to discuss the walkabout issues at a future meeting?
- 5) Date for next walkabout to be agreed – possibly sometime in October?



Litter bin at bus stop at dentist Oxgangs Road North and Potholes in Colinton Mains, 12/09/18



No dog poo bin at the footpath from Colinton Mains Road leading into Redford Wood, 12/09/18